



CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR

MARY P. NOBLE
ACTING STATE AUDITOR

ANALYSIS OF AUDIT REQUEST

STEVEN M. HENDRICKSON
CHIEF DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

2000-101

February 1, 2000

I. AUDIT REQUEST

Assemblymember Dickerson has requested an audit of the state agencies that fall under the umbrella of the CALFED Program. Specifically, the assemblymember is interested in land acquisitions for wildlife habitat and ecosystem restoration statewide both independently of and within the CALFED process.

II. BACKGROUND

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is one element of the CALFED Program, which is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta Estuary and California's environmental, urban and agricultural communities. It was initiated to address environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system, an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the watershed that feeds them. The Bay-Delta system supplies drinking water for two-thirds of Californians, irrigation water for more than 7 million acres of productive farmland, and supports 750 fish and wildlife species. The CALFED Program also has a Policy Group that provides direction and ensure decisions and actions are consistent with the goals and objectives of the program.

The state agencies in the CALFED Program are the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Resources Agency, which include the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Water Resources. The federal agencies are the Department of Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Commerce, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of the CALFED Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that would restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The program is managed by an interagency staff team assisted by technical experts from state and federal agencies as well as consultants.

BUREAU OF STATE AUDITS

555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814 Telephone: (916) 445-0255 Fax: (916) 327-0019

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Assemblymember Dickerson has heard from many citizens with concerns over the amount of land in California that is being acquired for habitat restoration and wetland/ecosystem restoration. They are concerned that the agencies that are part of the CALFED process may not be using any centralized or organized method to achieve the goals and objectives of the program.

III. AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This audit by the Bureau of State Audits will provide independently developed and verified information relative to the CALFED Program and would:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations relevant to the issues;
2. Determine the roles and responsibilities of each of the CALFED agencies and determine how they interact with each other;
3. Determine the extent to which the agencies that are part of the CALFED Program ensure decisions and actions are consistent with the program's goals and objectives;
4. Review and assess the methods used by CALFED to determine that goals are met;
5. Review the goals and processes by which state agencies within the program, acquire land for wildlife habitat and ecosystem restoration, both independently and under the CALFED Program, and determine the extent of coordination between agencies; and
6. Determine how much land the CALFED agencies have acquired for wildlife habitats and ecosystem restoration, what has been done with the land, and whether it is in line with the goals and purpose of the CALFED consortium.

IV. OTHER WORK IN THE GENERAL AREA

- 98112 *California's Drinking Water: State and Local Agencies Need to Provide Leadership to Address Contamination of Groundwater by Gasoline Components and Additives*, December 1998

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- 97123 *Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board: Has Not Accomplished All of Its Regulatory Work and Has Not Always Vigorously Acted Against Water Quality Violators, November 1998*
- 95110 *Habitat Conservation Fund: Some State Agencies Need To Do More To Ensure the Fund Is Used Appropriately, April 1997*
- 96119 *Tahoe Regional Planning Agency: Addressing Broader Needs of the Lake Tahoe Region and Streamlining Regulatory Processes Will Increase Effectiveness, February 1997*

V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

We estimate that this audit would require approximately 1,540 hours of audit work at a cost of approximately \$100,100 plus travel expenses and the costs of outside expertise if necessary. We will conduct this audit using our existing budget authority to the extent funding is available for audits approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

VI. REQUIRED DATE OF COMPLETION

Assemblymember Dickerson did not request a completion date for this audit.



MARY P. NOBLE
Acting State Auditor